Please amend the present application as follows:

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("———") or brackets ("[[ ]]"), as is applicable:

1. (Currently amended) A system for improving the performance of a plurality of peripheral devices, comprising:

a first peripheral device comprising a first software component and having a first functionality; and

a second peripheral device coupled to the first peripheral device via a network, the second peripheral device comprising a second software component and having a second functionality, the second peripheral device being coupled to the first peripheral device without being directly connected to an intermediate computing device positioned along the communication path between the peripheral devices, the first and second peripheral devices together performing a third functionality in addition to the first and second functionalities;

wherein the first peripheral device comprises a peripheral device display on which can be presented a graphical user interface that presents the third functionality to a user for selection.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second peripheral devices are coupled via a wireless network.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the first peripheral device is a scanner and the second peripheral device is a printer and the third functionality is a copying functionality.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the first software component of the first peripheral device and the second software component of the second peripheral device allow the first and second peripheral devices to exchange information over a network pertaining to the identity of the first peripheral device and the second peripheral device.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the information exchanged between the first and second peripheral devices further comprises information relating to the capabilities of the first peripheral device and the second peripheral device.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the first peripheral device modifies its capabilities based on the information received from the second peripheral device.

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the first peripheral device presents to a user with the graphical user interface a menu of available functionality based on the information received from the second peripheral device.

12-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A method practiced by a personal computer (PC) for providing additional functionality from peripheral devices, the method comprising:

searching for and identifying peripheral devices that are accessible to the PC;

determining the capabilities of each identified peripheral device using the PC; and

presenting to the user with the PC a functionality that is available through combination of the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices, the functionality being a functionality that is not independently provided by the identified peripheral devices.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein determining the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices comprises automatically querying all peripheral devices on a network to which the PC is connected.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein determining the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices further comprises receiving information from peripheral device software provided on each identified peripheral device.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising storing information about the peripheral device capabilities in a registry of the PC.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein presenting a functionality to the user comprises presenting the functionality to the user with a graphical user interface (GUI) on a display associated with the PC.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the GUI comprises a pull-down menu.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the GUI displays the complete set of tasks that can be performed through combination of the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein presenting a functionality to the user comprises presenting a copying functionality that is available due to a scanning capability of a scanner and a printing capability of a printer.

32. (Previously presented) A personal computer (PC), comprising:

a processor; and

memory comprising peripheral device software that is configured to search for and identify peripheral devices, to determine the capabilities of each identified peripheral device using the PC, and to present to a user a functionality that is available through combination of the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices, the functionality being a functionality that is not independently provided by the identified peripheral devices.

33. (Previously presented) The PC of claim 32, wherein the peripheral device software is configured to automatically query all peripheral devices on a network to which the PC is connected.

34. (Previously presented) The PC of claim 32, wherein the peripheral device software is configured to store information about the peripheral device capabilities in a registry of the PC.

35. (Previously presented) The PC of claim 32, wherein the peripheral device software is configured to present the functionality to the user with a graphical user interface (GUI) on a display associated with the PC.

36. (Previously presented) The PC of claim 35, wherein the GUI displays the complete set of tasks that can be performed through combination of the capabilities of the identified peripheral devices.

37. (Previously presented) The PC of claim 32, wherein the peripheral device software is configured to present a copying functionality that is available due to a scanning capability of a scanner and a printing capability of a printer.

38. (Previously presented) A peripheral device, comprising:

auto recognition logic that is configured to:

transmit a broadcast message on a network to announce the presence of the peripheral device on the network,

receive response signals from compatible peripheral devices also on the network, the response signals comprising information as to the identity and capabilities of the compatible peripheral devices, and

automatically present a functionality option to a user that is only available through combination of the capabilities of the peripheral device and at least one of the compatible peripheral devices.

39. (Previously presented) The peripheral device of claim 38, wherein the auto-recognition logic comprises a software component that is configured to modify a capability of the peripheral device based upon the information received from the compatible peripheral devices.

40. (Previously presented) The peripheral device of claim 38, wherein the auto-recognition logic presents the functionality option to the user in a graphical user interface (GUI) of the peripheral device.

41. (Previously presented) The peripheral device of claim 38, wherein the peripheral device is a scanner and the functionality is a copying functionality.

42. (Previously presented) The peripheral device of claim 38, wherein the peripheral device is a digital camera and the functionality is image printing.